

September 15, 2015,

To State Tax Panel:

The state of Connecticut policy of tax and spend is out of control. This policy has led to an exodus of the youth, elderly, and businesses. The high cost of living in Connecticut plus the tax burdens, and the lack of good paying employment has outpaced wages and many workers are working several jobs to live pay check to pay check to make ends meet. The taxpayers of Connecticut budgets have no place to cut. The state of Connecticut needs to stop spending, reduce costs, and cut the state budget.

Currently, 21 percent of my income goes to pay my property tax. In 1972 we purchased our home and property \$24,500 and I have lived here since. In 2000 my taxes were 2,000.00 in 2015 my taxes are \$7,580.44. My assessment has gone from \$137,300 in 1999 to \$403,000 in 2014. My home is located along the Connecticut River. I would like to review the data that support the notion that waterfront properties that are generally located in flood hazardous zones can be subjected to exuberant assessments. The way waterfront properties are assessed reminds me of the Sears Catalog blunder when they had the Wish book and people wanted the products but would not purchase them.

Currently the Town of Old Saybrook has agreed to sell the Sunset Avenue Road ending waterfront property which is .21 acre of land to Island Cove Marina for \$5,000.00. My 1.1 acre of land, which abuts Island Cove Marina, is assessed at 70 percent valued is \$311,700 which begs the question why are waterfront properties valued so differently?

I was amazed when after 2 months received my first raise of 1.7% from Social Security as an employee I had to take a pay cut and was laid off and now work three jobs. My income as not kept up with rate of increases in my assessments or property taxes.

The present property tax relief programs for people 65 and over are inadequate. Under Connecticut State Statue 24-124A if a property owner's property taxes are more than 8 percent of income on their Federal Income Tax return they can apply to the selectman for abatement on their property taxes. In order to do this the property owner would have to have a lien placed on their home and pay 6 percent interest a year. I have discussed this matter with First Selectman Carl Fortuna and he states that he must imposed the 6 percent interest charge and the lien. I offered to do community service but that is not an alternative. I find this very discriminatory because if I were deemed poor no lien or interest charge would be applied.

I would like to propose that Connecticut State Statue 24-124A be revised as follows: Property taxes are to reflect no more than 5% of a property owners Federal Income and no lien or interest would be charged and community service could be an option. An advantage of this would be in most cases the elderly tax relief programs would be standardized and streamlined.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely
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